

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19

OMB-01 AF-10 CIEP-03 CU-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8019

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: ALLEGED LIBYAN MISDEEDS IN EGYPT

1. DURING PAST WEEK, ALLEGED GOL INTERVENTION IN EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS HAS BEEN CONSTANT BUT NOT DOMINATING THEME IN CAIRO PRESS. WE HAVE READ ALLEGATIONS OF INHUMANE TREATMENT OF PASSENGERS ON EGYPTIAN STEAMERS BY GOL AUTHORITIES, OF THE CLOSURE OF GOE CULTURAL OFFICE IN BENGHAZI, AND OF BANNING OF EGYPTIAN BOOKS ON OCTOBER WAR. THEN ON JULY 27, AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA REPORTED THAT AWLAD ALI TRIBES LIVING NEAR LIBYAN BORDER HAVE REJECTED QADHAAFI'S EFFORTS TO BRIBE THEM TO GIVE UP THEIR "PHARAONIC" EGYPTIAN NATIONALITY IN FAVOR OF LIBYAN ARAB CITIZENSHIP; PAPER CONTINUED THAT TRIBES WERE QUICK TO INFORM GOE OF THIS "SEDITIONOUS" ATTEMPT TO CREATE AN EGYPTIAN MINORITY PROBLEM, AN EFFORT WHICH WILL FAIL AS DID QADHAAFI'S EARLIER ATTEMPT TO USE RELIGION TO "SABOTAGE" HOME FRONT. ALI AMIN AND MUSA SABRI HAVE BOTH WRITTEN THAT PRESIDENT

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SADAT HAS REFUSED TO RESPOND TO QADHAAFI'S EFFORTS TO CONTACT

HIM BY PHONE. ACCORDING TO ALI AMIN JULY 27, SADAT BELIEVES
"INSULTS DIRECTED BY QADHAAFI TO EGYPT CAN NOT BE OBLITERATED
BY TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS."

2. AHRAH JULY 28 HAS LENGTHY FRONT PAGE STORY LAMENTING LIBYAN
BEHAVIOR TOWARD EGYPTIAN NATIONS AT BORDER, RELATING VARIOUS
ANECDOTES ABOUT TRIBULATION OF UNNAMED EGYPTIANS WHO HAVE
BEEN IGNORED, MANHANDLED, AND INSULTED, AS WELL AS TO GIRLS TO
WHOM GOL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MADE "IMMORAL ONVERTURES". ALL THIS,
THE PAPER COMMENTS, MAY BE DISIGNED TO FORCE GOE TO TAKE
SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST LIBYANS, BUT EGYPTIANS WILL NEVER BE
DRAGGED INTO SUCH NON-BROTHERLY BEHAVIOR. GOE, AHRAH REITERATES,
DOES NOT BLACME LIBYAN PEOPLE FOR QADHAAFI'S "SCHEMING".

3. EGYPTIN GAZETTE REPORTED JULY 27 CANCELLATION OF SYSTEM
WHEREBY EGYPTIANS GOING TO LIBYA MIGHT CONVERT THE EQUIVALENT
OF 30 LIBYAN DINARS INTO FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ITEM CONTINUES:
"STATISTICS INDICATED THAT DURING RECENT SIX MONTHS ABOUT 89,000
PERSONS HAD LEFT FOR LIBYA UNDER THE PRETEXT OF TOURISM. ABOUT
L.E.E. 3,385,000 HAD BEEN CONVERTED AS ALLOWANCES FOR FOREIGN
EXCHANGE AT THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE. (COMMENT: WE ARE
TEMPTED TO READ THIS TIEM HAS AN ITIMATION THAT GOE MAY HAVE
DECIDED TO QUIETLY, BUT EFFECTIVELY DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO
LIBYA, THEREBY REDUCING BOTH SKILLED LABOR POOL ON WHICH
GOL CURRENTLY RELIES, AS WELL AS DIMINISHING THE NUMBER
OF EGYPTIAN HOSTAGES TO WHIM OF QADHAAFI.)

4. LATEST INCIDENT IS MORE SERIOUS. GRENADE WAS APPARENTLY
THROWN AND EXPLODED IN ALEXANDRIA'S MIRAMAR NIGHTCLUB EVENING
JULY 27, SAME NIGHT THAT SADAT GAVE MAJOR SPEECH AT ALEXANDRIA
UNIVERSITY. A SECOND, UNEXPLODED GRENADE WAS ALLEGEDLY FOUND
IN THE AREA. NEWSPAPERS JULY 28 GAVE ONE DETAIL OF POLICE
INVESTIGATION: SEVEN ARABS OF UNSPECIFIED NATIONALLY HAVE
BEEN DETAINED, OF WHICH THREE ARE TAXI DRIVERS WORKING BETWEEN
EGYPT AND LIBYA.

5. COMMENT: REPORTAGE AND COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF QADHAAFI
HAVE, OBVIOUSLY, TAKEN FAIRLY DRAMATIC UPSWING. AMOUNT OF
ANTI-QADHAAFI REPORTING AND USE OF SUCH WORDS AS "SEDITIONOUS"
AND "SABOTEUR" REPRESENT NEW HIGH IN SERIES OF PEAKS AND
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THROUGHS OF GOE-GOL RELATIONS. CURRENT REPORTAGE IS INTERESTING
FOR THE CONTINUING, DELIBERATE DISSOCIATION OF THE LIBYAN
"PEOPLE" FROM THE QADHAAFI REGIME.
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